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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,295	11/20/2001	Romeo E. Elias		2143

7590. 08/10/2004

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EXAMINER

HWANG, JOON H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/002,295

Applicant(s)

ELIAS ET AL.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2001.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The pending claims are 1 and 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,258).

With respect to claim 1, Stier discloses obtaining existing knowledge (knowledge objects and records) in a predetermined format of selected information domain (line 50 in col. 3 thru line 4 in col. 4, line 61 in col. 7 thru line 20 in col. 8, line 61 in col. 23 thru line 17 in col. 24, and lines 37-46 in col. 24) concerning capturing existing knowledge in a predetermined format of selected information categories. Stier discloses a structure of records and a format of records (lines 43-51 in col. 9, lines 38-50 in col. 14, lines 55-63 in col. 15, lines 56-60 in col. 43, and figs. 8-10). Stier discloses incorporating the obtained knowledge into knowledge objects and records having elements of information including links between related information (lines 61-34 in col. 2, line 50 in col. 3 thru line 4 in col. 4, lines 30-36 in col. 24, fig. 1b, and fig. 25). Stier discloses acquiring new knowledge (line 61 in col. 2 thru line 19 in col. 3 and lines 39-54 in col. 6). Stier discloses capturing the new knowledge in the predetermined format (line 61 in col. 2

thru line 5 in col. 3, lines 43-51 in col. 9, lines 38-50 in col. 14, lines 55-63 in col. 15, lines 56-60 in col. 43, lines 26-40 in col. 46, and figs. 8-10). Stier discloses updating the knowledge base (database) to include the new information and links between the new information and related information (lines 32-49 in col. 3, lines 25-37 in col. 14, lines 35-54 in col. 15, lines 64-67 in col. 24, and lines 36-45 in col. 26). Stier discloses making decisions for how to organize the information that is going to be stored in the knowledge base system (lines 53-60 in col. 7). And yet, Stier does not explicitly disclose organizing the knowledge into an indexed database. However, Stier discloses a spreadsheet in the knowledge base for organizing and recording knowledge objects and records (lines 18-25 in col. 25, lines 49-61 in col. 38, and lines 16-29 in col. 46), wherein the spreadsheet can organize information in an indexed way. Therefore, based on Stier, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the spreadsheet of Stier for organizing information in order to process (search, display, or report) information in an organized way.

4. Claim 2 is essentially the same as claim 1 except that it sets forth the claimed invention as a system rather than a method and rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,560,589), Stier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,499,024), Presnell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,067), and Zimmermann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,694) disclose knowledge management.

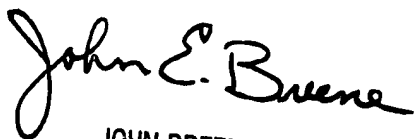
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 703-305-6469. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN E BREENE can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joon Hwang
4/2/04




JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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